Situation overview:

As military operations to retake Mosul from the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) continue to move towards the city, the International Organization for Migration’s Displacement Tracking Matrix (IOM/DTM) has recorded the first arrivals of displaced families to the south-east of Mosul district in Ninewa Governorate. Serious concerns remain for the protection of civilians as hostilities intensify closer to and in densely populated and urban areas.

Humanitarian impact:

On 18 October, IOM/DTM recorded the first displacement since the commencement of monitoring on 17 October. All arrivals were recorded in Al Qayyarah sub-district where 350 families totalling 1,900 people are sheltering in reception centres and camps. On 18 October, the UN Refugee Agency reported that over 900 refugees crossed from Baaj in Ninewa Governorate into Syria and reached a camp for internally displaced persons (IDPs) at Al Hol in Hassakeh.

Humanitarian response and coordination:

The Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) is providing immediate assistance to displaced families arriving in Al Qayyarah. On 19 October, the protection cluster is carrying out a Rapid Protection Assessment (RPA) to identify urgent gaps, and assess the overall protection situation. Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) partners will assess urgent humanitarian needs and capture demographic information by location. RRM partners, together with OCHA, are assessing the area north of Al Qayyarah to better understand humanitarian needs and access challenges, and deliver urgent assistance. The findings will inform the dispatch of further emergency aid from prepositioned stocks and allow partners to target assistance.

As humanitarian partners scale up assistance to newly displaced families, they continue to prepare camps and emergency sites for the expected large scale displacement. The three priority sites at Qayyarah Jad’ah, Qayyarah Airstrip and Haj Ali continue to be the focus of intensive logistical efforts to create much needed shelter capacity and to finalize infrastructure for emergency food distribution, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) needs and healthcare.

Coordination at the national level continues. On 18 October, the High Advisory Team for the Mosul response met for the first time to discuss camp and site capacity, camp management, and transportation arrangements to move people from screening sites to camps.